

WARREN B. HARDY II

SENATOR
Clark District 12



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State of Nevada Senate

Seventy-third Session

February 7, 2008

Nevada
Environmental Protection

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BAPC / BAQP

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E.

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001
Carson City, Nevada 89701-5249

Mr. Drozdoff,

I regret that I am unable to attend this evenings hearing regarding the proposed Toquop coal fired generating plant near Mesquite Nevada. Regrettably, prior commitments have precluded my participation. However, I am very familiar with the proposal from many years of personally monitoring its progress as a representative of the City of Mesquite and the Virgin Valley Water District.

As you know, the prospect of a power plant at that location has been discussed for many years and today I must restate the concerns I have consistently expressed about such a project at that location. My concerns relate primarily to the negative impact it could have on Mesquite's current water supply. The water basin the project proposes to use is of significant interest to the Virgin Valley in that it is adjacent to the basin from which Mesquite currently draws its water supply. The Mesquite basin is considered by the State Engineer to be fully appropriated. However it is scientifically clear that the basin from which the Toquop plant proposes to draw water is a flow through basin with the Mesquite basin and withdrawing water from it will certainly have a negative impact on Mesquite's closed basin. This potential impact must be a primary concern of the division when reviewing the totality of the environmental impact of the plant and I respectfully request that you give it the attention it warrants.

In addition to concerns I have had for many years regarding water, I have received numerous communications from Mesquite residents expressing concerns regarding the total environmental impact of the coal-fired plant. While I remain ardent supporter of sound scientific research into methods of using coal in an environmentally sound way, I am also given some pause by the current environmental drawbacks of such plants. Further, I fully support the duly elected Mesquite City Council in their resolution opposing the plant.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I am available to answer any questions you might have regarding my position on this matter.

Sincerely,

Warren B. Hardy II
Nevada State Senator